

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18 are pending in the application, with claims 3, 9, and 15 being independent. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 19-22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

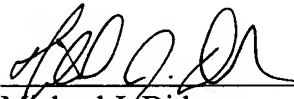
Attached hereto is one (1) formal drawing sheet, containing corrected Figure 10, to be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheet currently on file in this application. Replacement Figure 10 incorporates the changes requested by Applicants in a Request for Approval of Drawing Changes filed on December 22, 2004. Favorable consideration and acceptance of corrected Figure 10 are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 9, and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To expedite allowance of this application, claims 3, 9, and 15 have been so rewritten. Additionally, claims 4-6, 10-12, and 16-18 have been amended to depend from claims 3, 9, and 15, respectively. Without conceding the propriety of any rejections thereof, all other claims have been cancelled.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that all claims now pending are allowable, and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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